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connate instrument—it is much more—it is *the living sympathetic organ of our souls*. Whatever moves within us, whatever sensation or emotion we feel, becomes immediately embodied and perceptible in our voice; and so, indeed the voice and song, as we may observe in the earliest infancy, are our first poetry and the most faithful companions of our feelings, until the “shrill pipe of tremulous age.” If, as in song, properly so called, music and speech be lovingly united, and the words be those of a true poet, then is consummated the most intimate union of mind and soul, of understanding and feeling—that combined unity, in which the whole power of the human being is exhibited, and exerts upon the singer and the hearer that wonderful might of song, which by infant nations was considered, not quite untruly, as supernatural; and whose softened, and therefore, perhaps, more beneficent influence, now contributes to social elevation and moral improvement.

Song is the most appropriate treasure of the solitary, and it is at the same time the most stringent and forcible bond of companionship, even from the jovial or the sentimental popular catch of the booth, to the sublime creations of genius resounding from congregated artistic thousands assembled by one common impulse in the solemn cathedral. Devotion in our churches becomes more edifying; our popular festivals and days of enjoyment become more mannerly and animated; our social meetings more lively and intellectually joyful; our whole life, in short, becomes more elevated and cheerful by the spread of the love of song and of the power of singing among the greatest possible number of individuals. And these individuals will feel themselves more intimately connected with society, more largely participating in its benefits, of more worth in it and gaining more by it, when they unite their voices in the social harmony of their friends.

To the musician, but more especially to the composer, song is an almost irreplaceable and indispensable means of calling forth and seizing the most delicate, tender, and deepest strains of feeling from our inmost sensations. No instrument can be a substitute for song, the immediate creation of our own soul in our own breast; we can have no deeper impression of the relations of sound, of the power of melody; we cannot work more effectively upon our own souls and upon those of our hearers than by heartfelt song.

Every friend of music, therefore, should sing; and every musician, who has a tolerable voice, should be a master of song in every branch. Song should, also, in the order of time, be our first musical exercise. This should begin in the earliest childhood, in the third to the fifth year, if it be not possible earlier, but not in the form of instruction. The song of the mother which allures imitation, the joyful circle of children playing together, is the first natural singing school, where, without notes or masters, simply according

to hearing and fancy, the fibres of the soul are first freely excited and set in vibration. Instruction in music, properly so called, should not in general begin until the second step of life's ladder, between the seventh and fourteenth years.

By far the greatest number of individuals have sufficient qualifications of voice for singing, and to justify their pursuit of the art with reasonable hope of success. Indeed, very considerable and valuable vocal faculties are much more common than is generally imagined. There is certainly less deficiency of natural gifts than of persons observant and talented enough to discover, to foster, and to cultivate them. In the meantime, if indeed every one have not disposition and means (and good fortune) to become of some consequence as a singer, let us consider that even with an inconsiderable voice, much of the most touching and joy-inspiring capabilities may be attained, if feeling, artistic cultivation, and a vivid conception speak through a medium but slenderly endowed. Why should anyone be dissatisfied if small means and trouble have made him capable of touching our hearts with a joyful or tender song; or have enabled him to participate skilfully in the choral assemblies of his fellow citizens. Whether it may be advisable to proceed farther in singing and the cultivation of the voice, must be decided by the circumstances and inclinations of each individual. From composers, conductors, and higher masters, a complete knowledge of everything belonging to singing is to be absolutely demanded, and also practical execution thereof; unless, indeed, organic defect should render it to them impossible. A composer who does not expressly study singing, and practise it as far as possible, will scarcely be able to write for the voice; he will with difficulty acquire the more delicate musical declamation; he will never become entire master of the life-like conducting of the voice, which is something far different from mere correctness.

(To be concluded in our next.)

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slip in the paper near it.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

Notices of concerts and other information supplied by our friends in the country, must be forwarded as early as possible after the occurrence, otherwise they cannot be inserted. Our correspondents must specifically denote the date of each concert, for without such date no notice can be taken of the performance. All communications must be authenticated by the proper name and address of the writer.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

BARKING-ROAD.—A concert was given on the 7th ult., by the Westminster Choral Society, at the Barking-road Schools. Mr. Crawley conducted; and Mr. J. Andrews was the accompanist.

BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—The scheme of the

performances for this triennial event has, we understand, been arranged by the committee of management as follows:—On the first morning, Tuesday, the 27th of August, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* will inaugurate the meeting. On the morning of Wednesday, the 28th of August, it is intended to give Handel's *Samson*. Thursday morning, the 29th of August, will be devoted to a performance of the *Messiah*. Beethoven's grandest composition, the *Missa Solennis in D*, has been chosen for the first part of the performance on the morning of Friday, the 30th of August, to which will be added a selection from the choruses of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. The usual Ball to conclude the Festival will be omitted, and there will be four evening concerts, corresponding with those of the morning. Two of these will consist of oratorios—Haydn's *Creation* and Handel's *Judas Maccabæus*. The other two evenings are to be devoted to miscellaneous selections of high-class music. The band and chorus will comprise the *élite* of the profession, and it is understood that the principal singers will consist of the leading favorites in the metropolis. Mr. Costa will again conduct this series of musical performances.

BLACKBURN.—On the 11th ult. a concert was given in the Catholic Hall, the vocalists on the occasion being Miss Arabella Smith, Miss Heptonstall, Mr. D. Towers, and Mr. Hornby, assisted by an efficient chorus. The programme was of a miscellaneous character. Mr. Jopson officiated at the pianoforte.

BROMLEY, (Middlesex).—Miss Couves has been appointed organist of the Church at Bromley.

COLCHESTER.—A handsome organ, which has been erected in the Parish Church to the memory of the late rector, the Rev. J. T. Round, by his widow, was opened on Sunday, the 23rd ult. It is a fine-toned instrument, with one manual, and was built by Messrs. Bevington and Sons, of London. Mr. F. Smith, of the National School, presided.

DURHAM.—A concert of sacred music was given in the new Town Hall on the 27th of May, in aid of the funds for building a Catholic chapel in this city. The music was accompanied by a full band, and consisted of selections from the Masses and Oratorios. The solo parts were sustained by Miss Illingworth, Miss Hawman, Miss Scaife, and Messrs. J. Taylor, Hewitt, and Roberts. Leader of the band, Mr. Wood; harmonium and pianoforte, Mr. Liddle; conductor, Mr. G. Taylor; director, Mr. Roberts. The band and chorus consisted of about 40 performers.

ERITH.—On the 5th ult. a selection of sacred music was given at the New Chapel, in aid of the organ fund. The principal vocalists were Mesdames Parry, Sarl, and Fox, and Messrs. Travers, Wood, Mason, and Fox, assisted by an efficient chorus. Mr. Whomes, of Woolwich, presided at the organ, which is by Hunter and Webb, of London.

FOLKESTONE.—On Wednesday, the 29th of May, the Folkestone United Choral Society gave their first annual concert, at the new Town Hall, nearly 100 members taking part, assisted by Messrs. Plant and Newsome, of Canterbury. The band of the 18th regiment attended, and performed an overture and several operatic selections, under the direction of Mr. Bergmann, the bandmaster. The glees, madrigals, &c., executed by the members, were rendered in a creditable manner, and praise is due to the members, and to their conductor, Mr. J. Clifton.

GATESHEAD.—A new organ, built by J. Nicholson, of Newcastle, was opened at the Wesleyan Chapel, West Street, on the 7th ult., by Mr. Rea, who performed a selection of music upon the occasion. The instrument is a small one, but well adapted to the size of the building.

HORSHAM.—Mr. Richardson's benefit concert took place at the King's Head Hotel, on the 17th of June. The principal singers were Miss E. Spiller and Miss Clara Mackenzie, who were much applauded; the former in the "Queen of the Sea," and the latter in the "Wreck

of the Hesperus." Both ladies were encored. Mr. Richardson's performance on the violin was highly creditable, and Miss Lindley, on the pianoforte, exhibited considerable talent; her playing was excellent.

KENNINGTON.—A concert was given at the Horns on the 3rd ult. by Mr. Topliff, the organist of Trinity Church, who has been deprived of his sight for sixty years. He was assisted by Miss E. Armstrong, Mrs. Dixon, Miss Lay, and Miss Minot, and Messrs. Benson, Buckland, and Jones. The selections consisted principally of compositions by Mr. Topliff himself, which were much admired.

KINGSLAND.—The Choral Society, on the 12th ult., gave, in the spacious room under the Congregational Church, an evening entertainment of well selected miscellaneous music, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Bawtree. Several choruses, glees, and part-songs, were well sung. The choir was assisted by Miss Annie Cox, who sang with great effect.

LINCOLN.—The Choral Society of this town gave a concert during the last month, in aid of the funds of the Lincoln County Hospital. The first part of the programme consisted of Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*, the choruses in which were well sung. The solo parts were taken by Mr. Baraclough and Mr. Christian. The second part comprised secular music, and the selections were good, and were well executed. Mr. Mason was the conductor.

LONGTON (near Preston).—A new organ, built by Mr. Davis, of Preston, was opened on Sunday, June 9th, at Longton Church. Much satisfaction was expressed with the tone of the instrument. Mr. Greaves, organist of the Preston Parish Church, conducted a full choral service upon the occasion.

MELBOURNE, (Victoria).—The Philharmonic Society of Melbourne gave their first concert for this year on the 9th of April, when the oratorio chosen was *The Creation*. The Governor and Lady Barkly were present, as well as most of the principal inhabitants. The concert was looked forward to with considerable interest, as it was the first essay of Herr Elsasser in the capacity of conductor to the Society. This gentleman appears to have gained the confidence of the members, who were well satisfied with his exertions. The leading vocalists were Mrs. Hancock, Miss Bailey, Messrs. Ewart, W. H. Williams, Angus, and S. Moxon. The oratorio was repeated the following week for the benefit of the family of the late Mr. W. B. Wray, an old Liverpool organist. The result was very satisfactory.

OXFORD.—An exercise for the degree of Mus. Bac. was performed in the Music School, on Wednesday, the 19th ult. by Mr. R. Sloman, of Christchurch, organist of the Parish Church, Welchpool.

PADDINGTON.—Mr. A. J. Parsons, of St. Anne's, Westminster, was appointed on the 24th ult. organist to All Saints, Norfolk Square.

PENTONVILLE.—Miss Lucy Warne has been appointed organist of St. James's Church.

SEAHAM.—On the 3rd ult. an evening concert was given by the Seaham Harbour Choral Society, in the Hall of the Londonderry Literary Institute. The room was well filled. The various pieces in the programme were efficiently rendered. Mr. Lee conducted, and also accompanied the vocalists on the piano.

SKIPTON.—Mr. Watson gave the 5th of a series of concerts, in the Assembly-room, Devonshire Hotel, on the 28th May. The vocalists were Mrs. Sunderland, Miss Newbound, Mr. Geo. Webster (principal tenor of the Parish-Church Choir, Leeds), and Mr. Preston (principal bass of the Parish-Church Choir, Gargrave). Mr. Watson presided at the pianoforte.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Mr. John Francis Barnett, the nephew of the eminent composer, gave a vocal and

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instrumental concert on the 25th of June. The orchestra, which was large and efficient, was conducted by Dr. Wylde. Mr. Barnett's performances consisted of Mendelssohn's concerto in G minor, and an elegant composition of his own; added to which, he played the pianoforte part in Mozart's Grand Symphony, known as the Jupiter Symphony, on account of its colossal proportions, and the prodigious combination of learning and imagination displayed in its structure. Nothing could exceed the brilliancy of execution, and the delicacy of touch shown by the youthful performer and composer upon this occasion. He has at once stepped into the highest position in the profession as a pianoforte performer, and will doubtless add to the musical reputation of England by his genius as a composer. The singers who assisted upon the occasion were Madame Lemmens Sherrington, Madame Weiss, and Madame Laura Baxter; Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss. M. Ole Bull performed one of his wonderful compositions, by which the audience were entranced. He was, as usual, vociferously applauded. The programme was most interesting, and gave universal satisfaction; and the audience comprised many of the distinguished patrons of Mr. Joseph Barnett, the father of the young performer, whose musical talent is well known and appreciated.

THEOBALD'S ROAD.—A concert was given in the National Schoolroom on the 28th of May, by the St. George the Martyr Choral Union. The principal singers were Miss Palmer and Mr. Wilbye Cooper. There were several other performers of more or less merit, and the choir sang various choruses, most of which were far too difficult for their powers. Mr. Hewitt played several noisy solos upon a harmonium, including the "Hallelujah" chorus, clearly proving that you may have too much of a good thing. Mr. T. Spearing conducted.

TOTTENHAM COURT SCHOOL.—Mr. Gardner's concert came off very successfully at the above School-room, on Friday, June 7. Part I. consisted of selections from Mozart's *Twelfth Mass*, Handel's *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabaeus*. Part II. consisted of songs, glees, and choruses. The principal vocalists were Miss Ellen Hosset and Mr. Gillespy. Mr. N. Heins, organist of St. Paul's, Great Portland-street, presided at the pianoforte and harmonium. Conductor, Mr. T. Gardner.

TUXFORD.—The new organ for the Parish Church of Tuxford, which has lately been erected by Mr. Postill, of York, was opened on Saturday, May 25th. Dr. Dearle, of Newark, presided, and brought out the tone of the instrument, which is a very fine one, with great effect.

WILLIS'S ROOMS.—Mr. Cusins' annual morning concert took place at these rooms on the 8th of June. Mr. Cusins performed Beethoven's Sonata in D minor; a duo with M. Bugiau on the violin; and Hummel's septuor in D minor, for pianoforte, flute, oboe, horn, viola, violoncello, and contra-basso. All these pieces were executed in a faultless manner. The solo sonata was admirably played, and the septuor was in every respect a finished performance. The other instrumentalists were Messrs. Pratten, Nicholson, Steglich, H. Blagrove, Paque, and Rowland. Among the vocalists were Madlle. Parepa, Madame Vinning, Madlle. Elvira Behrens. Mr. Tennant, Mr. Whiffin, and Mr. Santley. There were several vocal compositions of Mr. Cusins, that were much admired. They included "Longing," by Madlle. Parepa, and a duet, entitled "Gently row, gondolier," by Madlle. Elvira Behrens and Mr. Tennant.

A YOUNG MAN is open to an engagement as ORGANIST or ASSISTANT. Address, P. W., Mr. Novello's, 35, Poultry, E.C.

CHANCEL ORGANS.—Instruments at £20, £25, £35, £45, and upwards. Specifications forwarded upon application.—Robert Allen, Organ-builder, King-square Avenue, Bristol. A small Organ for sale, cheap.

TO THE MUSIC TRADE.—To be disposed of, in the Country, a Music Business with good connection and annual tuning. Address, G.G., Mr. Ivory's, 275, Euston-rd.

MUSICAL WORK.—5000 Agents wanted to obtain subscribers to a musical work. Commission, 30 per cent. Address, A.B., Post-office, Winchester.

ORGAN—5 stops, adapted for 6; mahogany front; gilt pipes; £25.—Apply, after six, at 5, Havelock-road, Well-street, Hackney.

A BARGAIN.—A good-toned FINGER-ORGAN for Sale; 4 stops, 3 in metal. Apply at 29, Denton-street, King's-cross.

ORGAN, POWERFUL CC, for £35. (By instalments, if desired.) 6 stops, mahogany case.—42, Markham-square, King's-road, Chelsea.

A BARGAIN.—A good Finger Organ, about 9 feet by 6 feet, with 5 stops, to be Sold. Can be seen at 45, Upper Stamford-street. (S.)

ORGAN FOR SALE, nearly new; having 2 manuals, CC to F; with 11 stops in the great, and 9 stops in the swell organ; 4 copulas and 4 composition pedals; pedals, CCC to C, with double open 16-foot pipes. Price £220. Payment may extend over two or three years, with approved security.—Address, Mr. Walker, Buckingham.

TO BE SOLD.—A first-class Barrel Organ, containing double diapason, stopped ditto, open ditto, principal, and fifteenth, suitable for a small place of worship; and may, at a small cost, be converted into a Finger Organ. It has one barrel, containing 13 tunes. The tunes are set full, rich and powerful. Height, 10 feet. May be seen at the Ellowes Hall, Gornall, near Dudley; and to treat, apply to Mr. Richard Bourne, opposite St. Thomas's Church, Dudley.

ORGAN.—To be Sold, a superior-toned and powerful Finger Organ, new, containing open diapason, CC to A in alto. Keraulophon stopped diapason, bass stopped diapason, treble, principal and flute, two octaves of pedals, two composition pedals, foot and side blower, &c. A case would be made, with a general swell, to suit the purchaser. The Organ is suitable for a small Church or Chapel, particularly a private house, being in a small compass.—Address, F. Poole, Organ-builder, 5, Union-street, Kennington-road, London.

ORGANS FOR SALE.—An Organ nearly new, by the eminent Builders, Gray and Davison; of 2 manuals, CC to G, and pedals, CCC to E, with bourdon (16 feet) pipes; suitable for church or chapel. Also a smaller instrument, by the same builders, of 1 manual, CC to F, containing 5 stops and 1½ octaves of pedals, with bourdon pipes throughout, suitable for a small church. Apply to the Builders, or to Mr. Boole, Radburne, near Derby.

VIOLONCELLO, with Bow & Case complete, for £3 10s. A good instrument. Apply to Mr. Driver, India Arms, Lime-street.

HARMONIUMS.—3 stops, £6 6s; 5 stops, £10 10s. 11 stops, £12 12s. Instruments repaired and modernised with the additional stops and knee-swell, at a small cost. Parts to order.—A. Roberts, 8, Williams'-terrace, Blue-Anchor-road, Bermondsey.

WANTED.—An Harmonium, 2 rows of keys, 2 octaves of pedals, suitable for a music-hall; not less than 6 rows of vibrators.—Letters to be addressed to W. H. Birch, Caversham, Reading.

TO AMATEUR ORGANISTS.—To be sold cheap, (5 guineas,) an Harmonium, with 1½ octave pedals, organ bellows, swell, box, &c., in stained deal case.—Apply to W. H. B., 24, John-street West, Barnsbury. (N.)

HARMONIUM, by Alexandre, nearly new, 12 stops, percussion action, in handsome rosewood-case; to be sold for half its cost, at 34, Great Titchfield-street, Oxford-street. (W.)